

Learning from a 98-Year-Old

In article *Still a Witness*, published in *Upper Room*, author William H. White told of visiting his 98-year-old mother-in-law in a nursing home.

He remembers her quietly saying, "Think of the lilies and how they grow."

Long ago, this frail, blind woman made the discovery that all of life is a blessing from God. She spent much of her time repeating scripture verses that she learned throughout her life. The scriptures gave her both strength and comfort during many lonely hours.

She was an active woman right up until she entered the nursing home, walking a mile a day, though her eyesight was gradually worsening. She loved people and was always helping them. Even in the nursing home, she used a walker to spread her joyful faith.

"Facing each day is not easy for her," White reflected, "but she keeps her spirits up."

How? She felt that even at 98, she had a mission. There in the nursing home, she was able to touch the lives of other residents as well as some employees. In fact, some former employees who changed jobs still returned to the nursing home to spend time with this remarkable woman.

William White was inspired when his mother-in-law told him how thankful she was to have memorized so many scriptures before she lost her eyesight. Those scriptures filled her heart with the Lord.

What do we glean from this story?

This dear 98-year-old lady did not have much left in this world, but she had the only thing we ever really own – her faith in God. Everything else that we have is on loan.

Someday it will be passed on to someone else. Don't you see? No matter how rich we are, if we are not rich toward God, we don't have anything.

Happiness is found in recognizing our role as God's servants as we take care of His frail and infirm children. That's the blessing we receive in the mission we are called to do in Life Care and Century Park.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter